



# Holy Family Parish Northeast Mallee

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Website: northeastmallee.org.au

*Incorporating the Communities of St Mary's Sea Lake, Sacred Heart Culgoa, St Joseph's Nandaly, S's Peter & Paul Quambatook & St Mary's Swan Hill as well as the Lake Boga Families & Faith Group*



## 13<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2024: 28<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### *'GOOD MASTER, WHAT MUST I DO TO INHERIT ETERNAL LIFE?'*

A man approaches Jesus and puts that question before him, 'What must I do?' What's behind his question? Surely, there must be some unease or worry, a deep sadness, or a sense of being lost and without direction. If he was at peace in his situation, happy and completely confident of the way ahead, would he feel the need to approach Jesus? After all, he is in earnest, even a little desperate. You don't just randomly run up and kneel in front of people do you? He is searching for something. Yearning. The next question becomes; is he actually ready to receive the answer when it comes?



Jesus' immediate response is to ask him, 'Why do you call me good? No-one is good but God alone.' This may seem a little jarring at first, but Jesus is making an important point. The man has to ask himself, is he really approaching Jesus in trust and faith, recognising God's presence in Him, or is the man just trying to bribe Jesus with great compliments? Jesus then goes on, 'You know the commandments...' The man replies in earnest, 'I have followed these since my youth.' Then here comes the clincher: Jesus looks at him lovingly and says, 'You lack one thing. Go and sell everything you own... and then come follow me.'

Let's think about that for a moment. What is really at stake here? Yes, there is the wealth itself, but it is also something much deeper than just that. It really comes down to a question of trust. Will the rich young man put his trust in wealth, or in God? Will he trust in his earthly riches, or in the much greater riches only Jesus can lead him to- riches that are inexhaustible and everlasting? And the tragedy is, the man seems to know deep down that his wealth is not enough. Otherwise, he wouldn't have felt the need to approach Jesus. He wants something more than what he already has. But he is still not yet ready to leave his wealth behind and to place his trust in Jesus instead. And so he walks away sad.

Jesus is the way to eternal life. To trust in him and his love for us, to have faith in him and in his plan for us... that is the only way. The question comes back to us; Are we ready to trust in Jesus and the Father's love above all else? When life's trials comes, when great choices are in front of us, or temptations or distractions beckon... are we ready to trust in him and his loving plan? He has shown us in so many ways that we can trust him, that we should trust him... but to make that leap of faith in tough moments can still be so hard.

Like the rich man, so many things can work to hold us back. But the Good News is- we don't have to rely on our own strength alone. 'With God, all things are possible.' The Father calls us to trust in his Son, and the Holy Spirit offers us the free gift of faith we need to make that step. At first, the step can seem like an insurmountable hurdle- that is certainly how the rich man felt it to be- but as we follow Jesus more closely we realise it is more an open gate. He has opened it us, and he will lead us through, if only we can find it in ourselves to trust in him.

#### **Parish Contact Details:**

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**Office Hrs:** Tues, Wed and Fri 10:30 -1.30

#### **Parish Priest**

Fr James Kerr

#### **Parish Office:**

Glenda Klabbers & Mary Kennedy

#### **Child Protection Officers:**

Tony and Joelle Whiting

#### **Child Safe Church**

Here in the Parish of Holy Family North East Mallee we follow the Child Safe Standards outlined by the Victorian Government and we also implement procedures and standards as directed by the Ballarat Diocesan Office.



**PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS  
RECENT DEATHS+**

**ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH**

Noelien Neild, Francesca Sobara

Sam Guastlegname, Shaun Mangiameli

Antonio Pati, John McInerney, Phillip Parsons

Peter Fosdick, Antonia Giampaola, Patrick O'Loughlin

Anthony "John" Burns, Peter Gallo, Mary Ann Byrne

Philomena Walsh, Edith Jordan, Josephine Mary Bull

Michael Conidi, Eileen Doyle, Kathleen Hooper

Lila Proctor, Joy Noble, Greta Sherlock,

John O'Sullivan James Odah, Nance Power,

Catherine Patching

**SICK LIST**

Pat Croft, Yvonne Richardson, Paul Donohue,

Jayden Williams, Margaret Foott,

Jarrold Crimmins, Michael Bourke, Jack Donohue,

Jude Lewis, Susan, Yvonne Annan,

Bridget Phyland, Carmel Ryan, Peter Amezdroz

Ken Duryea, Helen Duryea

**THIS WEEKEND 12TH/13TH OCTOBER**

**28TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

Saturday 6pm Swan Hill

Sunday 8.30am Quambatook

Sunday 10:30am Swan Hill

Sunday 5pm Nandaly

**WEEKDAYS IN SWAN HILL**

Tuesday: 10am Mass

Wednesday: 10am

Thursday: 5pm Confessions, 5:30pm Mass, Adoration

Friday: 11:30am Mass

**NEXT WEEKEND 19TH/20TH OCTOBER**

**29TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

Sat 6pm Swan Hill

Sunday 8.30am Culgoa

Sunday 10:30am Swan Hill

**NOTICES**

**SOME SPECIAL WELCOMES**

This weekend we have two special welcomes.

Firstly, we are excited to welcome Dr Li Ding as he accepted as a Catechumen, beginning his journey towards baptism and full Communion.

We are also excited to welcome Alfred who will be presented by his parents David and Mary Edwards for Baptism. Welcome to God's Family!



**HELPERS NEEDED...**

If you are looking to take that extra step and get involved, we are looking for some help in the following ministries...

**1. HELP WITH: BAPTISM WELCOME SESSION**

We invite all families who are presenting their child for baptism in Swan Hill to a Welcome Session, so that they can introduce us to their little one and we can talk about what baptism means for them as a family. We have a simple little program we run through, but really the main thing is to have a friendly face to help welcome the families and make them feel at home. The idea is their children are becoming part of a family, the Church, and so they should get to meet some of that family. You don't need to necessarily formally present anything if you aren't confident, the welcome is the most important thing. Currently we are running these sessions on the third Thursdays of the month, starting at 6pm and usually finishing around 6:45pm. Heading into next year though we could potentially organise a different evening or weekend timeslot. All you will need will be a Working With Children's Check Card (we can help with that if you don't have one) and to complete a short Child Safety induction. Please see Fr James if you are interested.

**2. HELP WITH: HALLOWEEN FAMILY EVENT**

I've been wanting to do this for a few years now... let's reclaim Halloween aka All Hallow's Eve! We are looking for a few parents to help us organise a little celebration for families after 5:30pm Mass in Swan Hill on Thursday 30th October.

**Our Parish Schools**

**St Mary's Primary School Sea Lake**

Principal: Kate Nunn

47 Hannon Street, Sea Lake

Ph: 03 5070 1272

[Principal@smsealake.catholic.edu.au](mailto:Principal@smsealake.catholic.edu.au)

**St Mary's Primary School Swan Hill**

Principal: Kate Quin

2 Murlong St Swan Hill

Ph. 03 5033 2541

[principal@smswanhill.catholic.edu.au](mailto:principal@smswanhill.catholic.edu.au)

**St Mary MacKillop College**

Principal: Michelle Haeusler

53 McCrae Street, Swan Hill

Ph: 5032 9771

[Principal@mackillopsh.vic.edu.au](mailto:Principal@mackillopsh.vic.edu.au)

Hallowed means Holy, All Hallows means All Saints. So, instead of dressing up like monsters and ghouls, we want to see lots of little saints running around. The basic idea is prizes for best dressed, some games and some food. If you can help at all, please see Francesca Gomez or myself. If it won't work this time, but you are keen to help with family events at other times, please still let us know and we can keep you in mind. Again, as above, all you need will be a Working With Children's Check Card.

## **2. HELP WITH: ADULTS ENTERING THE CHURCH**

We are blessed to have had a number of enquiries recently from adults wishing to enter the Church. I am hoping to find a few special companions who can join me in helping to welcome the enquirers and accompany them on their journey. Again, similar to the Welcome Session, the main point is to be a welcoming and friendly presence, but there will also be plenty of occasions where you might draw on your experience of faith. Please see me if you are interested.



## **SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION, SWAN HILL YEAR 3 AND ABOVE**

We have now arrived!

This week we will begin our enrolment sessions, and next weekend the children will be presented to the community to begin their journey. Please keep the children, their families and all who will be helping them on this journey in your prayers.

### **HAVE YOU THOUGHT?**

Why does Jesus appear uncomfortable about being called 'good'?

Why did Jesus name these particular six commandments and not the others?

What thoughts might the wealthy man have had as he walked away from Jesus?

What would be the most challenging thing for Jesus to ask you to give away or walk away from?

Who do you know who has made a really significant 'sacrifice' in their life?

What impact does materialism have on your community?

## **NEW TESTAMENT COMMENTARY**

**BY MARY COLOE PBVM**

*The gift of the Kingdom: Go sell everything you own... and you will have treasure in heaven.*

We stand before God's gratuitous love as empty-handed recipients. We neither earn nor deserve such love and this is a discomfiting awareness. Jesus' response to the man offers him the opportunity to know this attitude of his own neediness and emptiness before God. Being stripped of the external trapping of wealth mirrors a more rigorous internal laying bare of oneself before God. In this situation of utter emptiness, one is then able to know what one has so bountifully received. The Kingdom that Jesus offers is a wealth that makes all other things pale into insignificance. Down through history, many have valued this even more than life itself.

The short section from Hebrews comes at the end of a discussion of what God promised to Israel, a promise, dependent upon Israel's faithful response to God. It reflects on the choices made by Israel and addresses a Christian community to reflect on the choices that its members make. In making such choices, Hebrews uses the image of a sharpened sword to speak of God's deep knowing of our innermost desires and intentions. In one sense, in the Gospel passage today, Jesus read the deep desires of the young man. The Gospel says, 'Jesus looked steadily at him and loved him.' Knowing his deeper self, Jesus then offered him a way of achieving these desires – but it involved a choice that this man was not able to make.

It is worth reflecting on what are my deepest desires – are they for external things, or are my desires intangible needs for good relationships, for inner peace; for love; for family?



### **READINGS NEXT WEEK:**

**29TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

First Reading: Isaiah 53:10-11

Second Reading: Hebrews 4:14-16

Gospel: Mark 10:35-45

**FIRST READING** Wisdom 7:7-11

*A reading from the book of Wisdom  
In comparison to wisdom, I held riches as nothing.*

I prayed, and understanding was given me;  
I entreated, and the spirit of Wisdom came to me.  
I esteemed her more than sceptres and thrones;  
compared with her, I held riches as nothing.  
I reckoned no priceless stone to be her peer,  
for compared with her, all gold is a pinch of sand,  
and beside her silver ranks as mud.  
I loved her more than health or beauty,  
preferred her to the light,  
since her radiance never sleeps.  
In her company all good things came to me,  
at her hands riches not to be numbered.  
*The Word of the Lord. ALL: Thanks be to God.*

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM** Ps 89:12-17. R. v.14

**(R.) Fill us with your love, O Lord,  
and we will sing for joy!**

Make us know the shortness of our life  
that we may gain wisdom of heart.  
Lord, relent! Is your anger forever?  
Show pity to your servants.

In the morning, fill us with your love;  
we shall exult and rejoice all our days.  
Give us joy to balance our affliction  
for the years when we knew misfortune.

Show forth your work to your servants;  
let your glory shine on their children.  
Let the favour of the Lord be upon us:  
give success to the work of our hands. **(R.)**

**SECOND READING** Hebrews 4:12-13

*A reading from the letter to the Hebrews  
The word of God discerns the thoughts and intentions of  
the heart.*

The word of God is something alive and active; it cuts like  
any double-edged sword but more finely: it can slip  
through the place where the soul is divided from the  
spirit, or joints from the marrow; it can judge the secret  
emotions and thoughts. No created thing can hide from  
him; everything is uncovered and open to the eyes of the  
one to whom we must give account of ourselves.  
*The Word of the Lord. ALL: Thanks be to God.*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** Matthew 5:3

Alleluia, alleluia!  
Happy the poor in spirit;  
the kingdom of heaven is theirs!  
Alleluia!

**GOSPEL** Mark 10:17-30

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark  
Go and sell whatever you have and come follow me.*

Jesus was setting out on a journey when a man ran up, knelt  
before him and put this question to him, 'Good master, what  
must I do to inherit eternal life?' Jesus said to him, 'Why do  
you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know  
the commandments: You must not kill; You must not commit  
adultery; You must not steal; You must not bring false  
witness; You must not defraud; Honour your father and  
mother.' And he said to him, 'Master, I have kept all these  
from my earliest days.' Jesus looked steadily at him and loved  
him, and he said, 'There is one thing you lack. Go and sell  
everything you own and give the money to the poor, and you  
will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.' But his  
face fell at these words and he went away sad, for he was a  
man of great wealth.

Jesus looked round and said to his disciples, 'How hard it is  
for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God!' The  
disciples were astounded by these words, but Jesus insisted,  
'My children,' he said to them, 'how hard it is to enter the  
kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to pass through the  
eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of  
God.' They were more astonished than ever. 'In that case'  
they said to one another, 'who can be saved?' Jesus gazed at  
them. 'For men' he said, 'it is impossible, but not for God:  
because everything is possible for God.'

Peter took this up. 'What about us?' he asked him. 'We have  
left everything and followed you.' Jesus said, 'I tell you  
solemnly, there is no one who has left house, brothers,  
sisters, father, children or land for my sake and for the sake  
of the gospel who will not be repaid a hundred times over,  
houses, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and land – not  
without persecutions – now in this present time and, in the  
world to come, eternal life.'

*The Gospel of the Lord. ALL: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.*

